REMARKS

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner wrote, "The information disclosure statement filed 3/30/2004 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed." The information disclosure statement filed 3/30/2004 identified U.S. Application No. 09/782,445 as a prior application relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), "[a] copy of any patent, publication or other information listed in an information disclosure statement is not required to be provided if it was previously cited by or submitted to the Office in a prior application, provided that the prior application is properly identified in the statement and relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120." Every patent, publication, or other information listed in the information disclosure statement filed 3/30/2004 was previously submitted with the information disclosure statement accompanying U.S. Application No. 09/782,445. Therefore, 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 did not require the applicant to submit additional copies of the same references previously provided to the Office.

Specification

The Examiner wrote, "the Applicant must identify the related application by the application number (consisting of the series code and serial number) or international application number and international filing date and indicating the

relationship of the applications. See 37 CFR 1.78 and MPEP § 201.11."

The first sentence of the specification after the title is: "This application is a divisional of U.S. Ser. No. 09/782,445, filed on February 12, 2001, now U.S. Pat. No. _____, by Josh Goldfoot, and entitled 'Method of Shape Recognition Using Postulated Lines,' which is hereby incorporated by reference." This complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.78 and MPEP § 201.11. The application number of 09/782,445 is given—the "09" being the series code, and the "782,445" the serial number. *See, e.g.*, 37 C.F.R. § 1.5 ("consisting of the series code and the serial number; e.g., 07/123,456"). The relationship of the applications, "divisional," is also given.

Claim Objections

The Examiner wrote, "Claim 1 is objected to because the claim is difficult to understand due to the use of confusing language. Appropriate correction is required. The prior art rejection based on the Examiner's best understanding."

The Examiner does not explain in what way Claim 1 of the application is "difficult to understand." Claim 1 uses the same language as the specification, employing full, clear, concise, and exact terms that will be familiar to persons skilled in the relevant fields. Additionally, many of the terms used in Claim 1 are defined in the specification. An incomplete list of terms defined in the specification follows: "scribble" is defined at 6:25-26; "shape" is defined at 7:6-8; "closed plane figure" is defined at 7:8-11; "spline" is defined at 7:12-14; "knots" is defined at 7:14-15; "important points" is defined at 8:2-7.

Without conceding that Claim 1 is difficult to understand, this Amendment is intended to make Claim 1 easier to understand.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C § 102

The Examiner rejected claim 1 of the application "under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takasaki et al. US Patent No. 4,969,201." The rejection is improper, because Takasaki et al., US Patent No. 4,969,201 (hereinafter "Takasaki"), fails to expressly or inherently describe "each and every element as set forth in" claim 1 of the application as amended. MPEP § 2131 *(quoting Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)).

The Examiner writes that "FIG. 3" of Takasaki anticipates claim 1(b) of the application. Claim 1(b) of the application reads, "determining whether said scribble resembles a closed figure." FIG. 3 of Takasaki depicts an open figure, not a closed figure: FIG. 3 shows a series of points, roughly shaped like an upside-down U. The two endpoints of the U are not connected to each other. Thus, the cited reference does not anticipate the step of "determining whether said scribble resembles a closed figure." Claim 1(b) is therefore not anticipated by Takasaki.

The Examiner writes that Takasaki 5:65-68 to 6:1-5 anticipates claim 1(c), which reads "determining whether said scribble resembles a figure with more straight sides than curved sides." Takasaki 5:65-68 to 6:1-5 does not describe any step of determining whether there are "more straight sides than curved sides." To the contrary, Takasaki 5:65-68 to 6:1-5 describes a process in which only "three consecutive structuring points

of the polygonal line-data" are considered, regardless of how many such "structuring points" exist in the "polygonal line-data" to be considered. Takasaki 5:66-67. Further, Takasaki 5:65-68 to 6:1-5 does not describe a process by which it is evaluated whether the sides joining those three points are straight or curved. Rather, Takasaki 6:3-5 refers only to a comparison of the distances of the two line segments formed by the three structuring points and a virtual circle passing through the three points. Thus, nothing in the cited reference teaches considering whether a scribble has more straight sides by determining whether there are "more straight sides than curved sides." Claim 1(c) is therefore not anticipated by Takasaki.

The Examiner writes that Takasaki 4:35-40 anticipates claim 1(d), which reads, "recognizing said scribble as a line segment if said scribble has exactly two important points." Takasaki 4:35-40 does not refer to a technique for recognizing a scribble as a line segment at all. Takasaki 4:35-40 discusses Takasaki FIG. 3, which depicts a shape that is not a line segment. Further, Takasaki 4:35-40 does not teach that a shape might be recognized by counting its total number of important points in a scribble. Claim 1(d) is therefore not anticipated by Takasaki.

The Examiner writes that claim 1(e) of the application is anticipated by Takasaki 4:50-55, Takasaki 5:65-68 to 6:1-5, and FIG. 2A, element 104 of Takasaki. Claim 1(e) of the application reads, "recognizing said scribble as a straight curve if said scribble has more than two important points and said scribble has more straight sides than curved sides and said scribble is not a closed figure." To clarify the meaning of

this claim, but not to change its meaning or limit its scope, this Amendment changes "straight curve" to "piecewise linear curve." In the field of geometry, "piecewise linear curve" is understood to mean a sequence of line segments connected to each other at their endpoints. So amended, the claim is not anticipated by the Takasaki reference. Takasaki 5:65-68 to 6:1-5 does not describe any step of determining whether there are "more straight sides than curved sides." To the contrary, Takasaki 5:65-68 to 6:1-5 describes a process in which only "three consecutive structuring points of the polygonal line-data" are considered, regardless of how many such "structuring points" exist in the "polygonal line-data" to be considered. Takasaki 5:66-67. Further, Takasaki 5:65-68 to 6:1-5 does not describe a process by which it is evaluated whether the sides joining those three points are straight or curved. Rather, Takasaki 6:3-5 refers only to a comparison of the distances of the two line segments formed by the three structuring points and a virtual circle passing through the three points. Thus, nothing in the cited reference teaches considering whether a scribble has more straight sides by determining whether there are "more straight sides than curved sides." Claim 1(e) is therefore not anticipated by Takasaki.

The Examiner writes that Claim 1(f) of the application is anticipated by Takasaki FIG. 5 and Takasaki 4:50-55. Claim 1(f) reads, "recognizing said scribble as a spline if said scribble has more than two important points and said scribble does not have more straight sides than curved sides and said scribble is not a closed figure." Takasaki 4:50-55 does not describe any step of determining whether there are "more

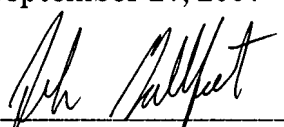
straight sides than curved sides." Further, Takasaki 4:50-55 does not describe a process by which it is evaluated whether the sides joining those three points are straight or curved. Thus, nothing in the cited reference teaches a method of shape recognition that examines the properties of all sides of the shape to be recognized. Claim 1(f) is therefore not anticipated by Takasaki.

The Examiner writes that Claim 1(g) of the application is anticipated by Takasaki FIG. 5, Takasaki 4:50-55, and Takasaki 5:65-68 to 6:1-5. Claim 1(g) of the application reads, "recognizing said scribble as a closed plane figure if said scribble has more than two important points and said scribble has more straight sides than curved sides and said scribble is a closed figure." FIG. 5 depicts an arcuate or circular arc segment, not a closed plane figure. Further, Takasaki 5:65-68 to 6:1-5 describes a process in which only "three consecutive structuring points of the polygonal line-data" are considered, regardless of how many such "structuring points" exist in the "polygonal line-data" to be considered. Takasaki 5:66-67. Further, Takasaki 5:65-68 to 6:1-5 does not describe a process by which it is evaluated whether the sides joining those three points are straight or curved. Rather, Takasaki 6:3-5 refers only to a comparison of the distances of the two line segments formed by the three structuring points and a virtual circle passing through the three points. Claim 1(g) is therefore not anticipated by Takasaki.

The Examiner writes that Claim 1(h) of the application is anticipated by Takasaki FIG. 5, and Takasaki 4:50-55. Claim 1(h) of the application reads,

"recognizing said scribble as a closed spline if said scribble has more than two important points and said scribble does not have more straight sides than curved sides and said scribble is a closed figure." FIG. 5 depicts an arcuate or circular arc segment, not a closed plane figure. Takasaki 4:50-55 does not describe any step of determining whether there are "more straight sides than curved sides." Further, Takasaki 4:50-55 does not describe a process by which it is evaluated whether the sides joining those three points are straight or curved. Thus, nothing in the cited reference teaches a method of shape recognition that examines the properties of all sides of the shape to be recognized. Claim 1(h) is therefore not anticipated by Takasaki.

Date: September 27, 2007

By: 

Josh Goldfoot (Pro se)

4718 17th St. N
Arlington, VA 22207

(703) 243-2936